

BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

JANUARY, 1986

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 1

Inside:

- Bowl Outlook
- Prep Prospects
- Basketball
- And More



BAMA'S

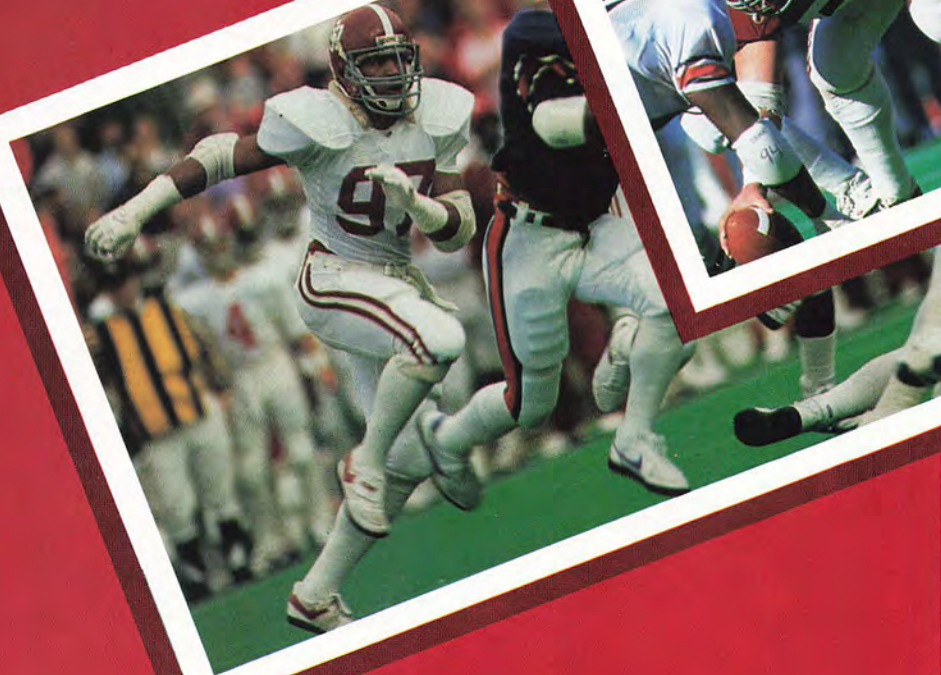
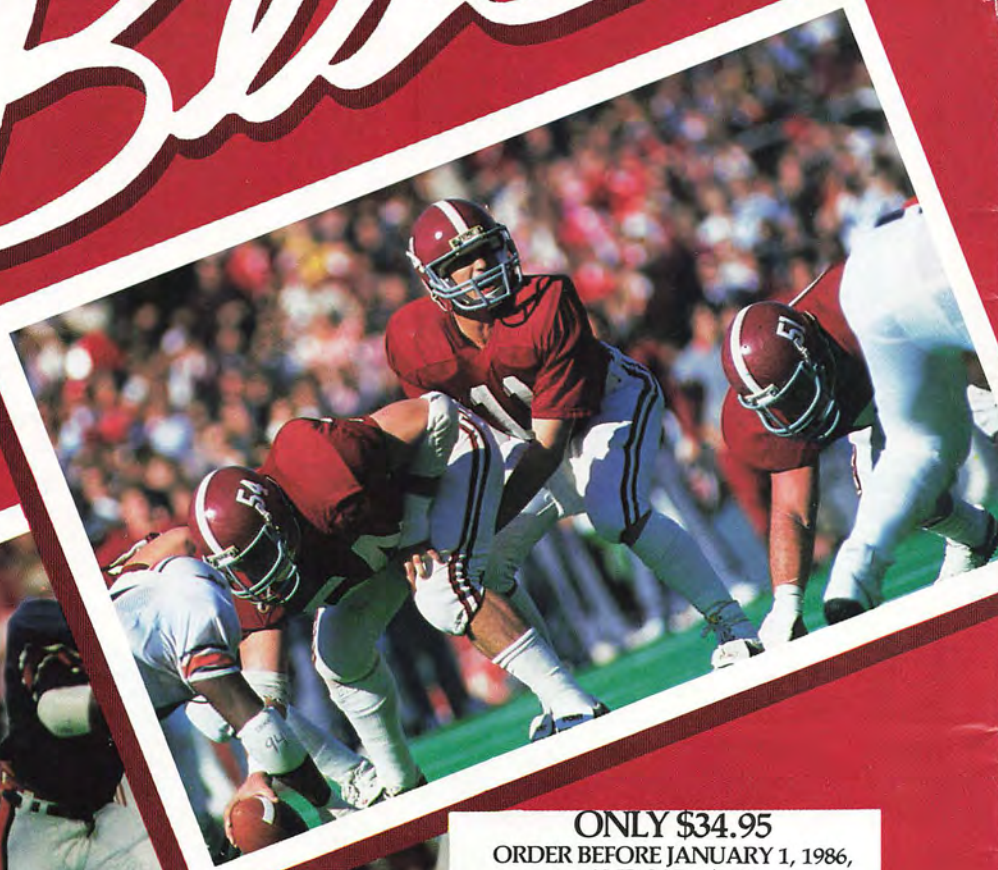
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ALA



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On The Cover: Alabama quarterback Mike Shula earned All-SEC honors this year. Now he and Head Coach Ray Perkins lead the Tide against Southern Cal in the Aloha Bowl. See Page 6. Spectrum Southeast Photo



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After a year away from postseason competition, Alabama bounced back with a good season. Sometimes a bowl game is a reward, and the Aloha Bowl certainly qualifies as a rewarding trip, although Southern Cal may make it a tough game. **by Kirk McNair**

Prep Prospects: Linemen Of The South

12

It's no secret that Alabama will be attempting to sign quality linemen for future Tide teams this year, nor is it any secret that Bama recruiters will be going out of state for some of them. Here is a look at some of those best known prep football prospects. **by Chris Roberts**



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Craig Turner: He's Made A New Name

16

When Craig Turner was diving over the top for his scores, including the last one ever for a Paul Bryant team, he was fondly known as Touchdown Turner. He's lost that nickname, but he's made a name for himself as Alabama's fullback this year. **by Kirk McNair**

Bama Basketball: The Birmingham Connection

20

Over the years Alabama's basketball program has received important infusion from the Birmingham area. With three new Magic City performers this year and at least one more coming next season, the pipeline continues to flow. **by Tommy Deas**



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Led by NCAA recordholder Lillie Leatherwood and a handful of other former Olympians, it looks like a good year for John Mitchell's indoor track team. And, for a change, the runners will be leading the way. **by Lisa Dickerson**

History Of Alabama Athletics: Lee An All-Time Great

24

He may not have earned the fame of some of his teammates, but Bill Lee was every bit an All-America with Dixie Howell and Don Hutson in the early 1930s. **by I.J. Rosenberg**



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Back In Business



Alabama's offense gained considerable late-season punch with the emergence of freshman Gene Jelks at tailback. Jelks rushed for a team-leading 588 yards, 513 of it coming in the final four games, 192 of it in the final game against Auburn, and 74 of it coming on his final run—also against Auburn.

Spectrum Southeast Photo

by Kirk McNair

After a year's absence, America's bowlingest team is going again

The Aloha Bowl doesn't have much tradition or national significance, but just try telling that to the Alabama football team. The 1985 Crimson Tide was a group of over-achievers, bucking stiff odds to finish with an 8-2-1 record and tie for second place in the Southeastern Conference. That record wasn't quite good enough to get Bama to where all Bamas aspire—the national championship picture—but it was deserving of a reward. And what better reward than spending the last week of December in Hawaii?

The Aloha Bowl (to be played at 7 p.m. CST December 28) pits America's bowlingest team—Alabama with 37 appearances—against America's winningest bowl team—Southern Cal with 21 victories in 28 total bowl games. The Tide is second in victories on the basis of its 20-14-3 bowl record, while the Trojans are third in appearances. In between is Texas with 31 appearances.

Alabama has won eight of its last nine bowl games, Southern Cal seven of its last eight.

This will be the ninth bowl for Bama. In addition to its 29 appearances in the four major bowls (10 Sugars, seven Oranges, six Roses and six Cottons), the Tide has been in four Liberty Bowls, two Bluebonnets, one Gator and one Sun. Bama had played in a national record 25 consecutive bowl games before falling out of the postseason picture with a 5-6 record last year. This is only the fourth Aloha Bowl. Washington beat Maryland 21-20, Penn State downed Washington 13-10, and SMU topped Notre Dame 27-20 in the three previous games.

Southern Cal has to be considered a surprise opponent, indeed a surprise bowl team. The Trojans were 4-6 going into their annual crosstown bloodletting with UCLA and the Bruins were heavily favored. However,



Southern Cal got out with a 17-13 victory to sully—though not prevent—UCLA's Rose Bowl appearance. With a 5-5 record and one game to play (against Oregon in the Mirage Bowl in Tokyo), the Aloha Bowl issued the Trojans an invitation to meet Alabama. Southern Cal does come into the Aloha Bowl with a winning record by having beaten Oregon 20-6. Nearly as important as that winning record (if the Trojans had been 5-6 the Aloha Bowl would have been open to scathing criticism) is the Southern Cal name. Alabama vs. Southern Cal pits two of the nation's best name teams.

Information prior to official invitations was that Texas would be going to the Aloha Bowl to meet Alabama, provided the Longhorns did not either lose or win both of their final two games. If Texas won both, the Longhorns would be the Cotton Bowl representative. If Texas lost both, thus finishing with a 7-4 record, the Longhorns were not going to go to a bowl. As it turned out Texas split, then accepted the Bluebonnet Bowl invitation. The reasons for Texas changing from the Aloha Bowl included: They had gone to the Freedom Bowl in California the previous year, a trip too far for most of their fans and too far to take the band; they have 50,000 alumni in the Houston area; they felt recruiting would be better served by playing in Houston than in Honolulu.

From a historical standpoint, Bama is probably better off against Southern Cal than Texas. The Tide has a 4-2 record against the Trojans, including a 34-14 victory in their only bowl matchup, the 1946 Rose Bowl. Against Texas, Alabama is 0-7-1, including an 0-5-1 bowl mark. The last time Bama and USC met was in Birmingham in 1978. The Trojans took a 24-14 victory. However, that

Tide team rebounded to win 11 games, including the famous 14-7 victory over Penn State in the Sugar Bowl. Alabama was awarded the bulk of the national championship trophies following that season, although Southern Cal took the United Press International crown.

The Aloha Bowl is not on network television, but Innovative Sports Network purports to have the game scheduled for showing to 82 percent of the nation, including all major markets.

Alabama was to begin bowl preparation in Tuscaloosa December 16, then leave for Hawaii from Birmingham at 9 a.m. December 23. USC also planned to practice on its campus beginning December 16 and leave for Hawaii on December 23. Alabama will be headquartered at the Sheraton Waikiki and practice in Aloha Stadium.

Although Alabama does not rank at the top of most team statistical categories in the SEC, the Tide's offensive production is perhaps misleading. It has been a very effective offense, owing in large part to the development of quarterback Mike Shula. Although Alabama ranked only seventh in the SEC in passing offense, Shula was the number two quarterback in passing efficiency. Although Bama was sixth in total offense, the Tide was second in scoring offense (26.7 points per game) and in yards per play (5.6).

Shula has a good supporting cast. Bama tailbacks—three of them freshmen—combined for almost 1,500 yards rushing. Gene Jelks was the season-ending star, in no small part because of his big performance against Auburn. Anyone guessing who would be the leading rusher in that game would have been more inclined to predict the Heisman Trophy winner-to-be than a 5-10, 170-pound freshman. But Jelks outrushed Auburn's Bo Jackson, finished the year with a team-leading 588 yards (6.3 per carry), and now looms as a future star for Bama. Freshman Bobby Humphrey also had a good year, rushing for over 500 yards and a 5.1 yards per carry average. Fullback Craig Turner (*see Page 16*) gave a solid comeback performance with 480 yards rushing.

Bama wide receivers were spectacular, particularly in clutch situations. The Trojans certainly knew about Al Bell, a prep All-America at Crenshaw High in Los Angeles, long before he was a Tider. Bell was a factor in almost everything good that happened to Alabama this year, from his game-winning touchdown catch in the opener against Georgia to the end-around that caught Auburn by surprise in the waning moments of



Alabama's defense was led statistically by the Tider most overlooked for postseason honors, linebacker Wayne Davis. Davis, a 6-4, 210-pound junior, turned in 65 primary stops, 60 assists, two interceptions, caused two fumbles and broke up five passes. University of Alabama Photo

that great victory. Bell had 37 catches for 648 yards and eight touchdowns and rushed four times for 62 yards and one touchdown. Bell made either a first down or touchdown 37 of the 41 times he got the ball either as a pass receiver or runner. On the other side, Greg Richardson made 13 catches and all were for first downs—including the dramatic 19-yarder on the next-to-last play against Auburn.

He also had two catches in the last-minute drive against Georgia. And as a punt return man his 62-yarder against Auburn was the longest in the SEC this year. Clay Whitehurst (12 catches, 149 yards) is a top backup man for both Bell and Richardson.

The offensive line didn't have a lot of big name players (Wes Neighbors being the biggest), but it stayed healthy and played win-

ning football through most of the season—particularly in tough situations.

Bama's defense also has star quality, notably outside linebacker Cornelius Bennett. Although Bennett missed part of the season with a knee injury, when he returned to full speed performance it was the Bennett of old. Wayne Davis was the big man statistically for Alabama's defense. Davis is overshadowed by Bennett's reputation, but he is a quality inside linebacker. His 125 total tackles was far ahead of fellow inside linebacker Joe Godwin's runnerup total of 81.

The only bad thing about Bama's defensive front is that so many of them will be playing their final game for Alabama against Southern Cal. Jon Hand ranks with the best defensive tackles in Alabama history, and that includes a number of outstanding ones. The combination of Brent Sowell and Larry Roberts at the right tackle spot makes that a strength of the Tide defense. In the middle is all-star Curt Jarvis, the only junior among the group.

Freddie Robinson was the biggest name in the Alabama secondary. Tide pass defense was only so-so through most of the year, but Bama defense backs all have big play potential.

Alabama's overall kicking game left a lot to be desired, but any past errors were forgiven in the final game. Van Tiffin ranks with the nation's best field goal kickers and Chris Mohr can be very, very good when he is punting well.

No one expected Southern Cal to be a 6-5 team this year. The Trojans were expected to be led by three men who ranked among the all-time best in USC history on offense—senior tailback Fred Crutcher, senior quarterback Sean Salisbury, and senior split end Hank Norman. However, only Norman—who had an outstanding year with 39 catches for 635 yards—was able to hold on to his starting job. Even with those statistics, Norman was not the leading receiver for USC. Tight end Joe Cormier had 40 catches.

Crutcher was beaten out by sophomore Ryan Knight (who led the Trojans with 692 yards on 179 carries), although Crutcher's 636 yards pushed him to seventh on USC's career rushing list behind Charles White, Marcus Allen, Anthony Davis, Ricky Bell, O.J. Simpson and Mike Garrett and ahead of Clarence Davis. Salisbury ended up the year as Southern Cal's all-time career passing leader with 5,318 yards, but he also ended up behind redshirt freshman Rodney Peete. Salisbury hit 98 of 172 passes for 1,180 yards, while Peete, a rollout scrambler, hit 40



Southern Cal has an outstanding freshman tailback, too. Ryan Knight (26) has replaced one of the finest in storied Trojan history, senior Fred Crutcher, at the key USC position.

Southern Cal Photo

of 68 passes for 501 yards and five touchdowns.

The Trojans' offensive front is led by consensus All-America guard Jeff Bregel (6-4, 280) and All-Pac 10 tackle James FitzPatrick (6-8, 270).

Southern Cal uses two basic offensive formations, although both feature the tailback. In some cases there are two wide receivers,

while at other times a second tight end is in at a wing position, the so-called H back.

The Trojans' defense is led by junior strong safety Tim McDonald, an All-Pac 10 performer who was a preseason All-America. He had four interceptions this year. Inside linebackers Keith Davis and Sam Anno and noseguard Tony Colorito are the top tacklers.

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/JANUARY '86

ALABAMA SQUAD

1 Al Bell	WR
3 Van Tiffin	PK
5 Chris Mohr	P
6 Greg Payne	WR
7 Gene Newberry	QB
8 Butch Worley	PK
10 Vince Sutton	QB
11 Mike Shula	QB
12 Shon Lee	SS
13 David Smith	QB
15 Lydell Mitchell	OLB
17 Greg Richardson	WR
19 Larry Abney	QB
20 Britton Cooper	CB
21 Freddie Robinson	CB
22 Gene Jelks	TB
23 Todd Richardson	CB
24 Mike Bobo	FB
25 Carlos Robinson	FB
26 Bobby Humphrey	TB
27 Kermit Kendrick	S
30 Chester Braggs	TB
31 Steve Wilson	SS
34 Ricky Thomas	SS
35 Kerry Goode	TB
36 Chris Goode	CB
37 Rory Turner	SS
38 Vernon Wilkinson	CB
39 Don Horstead	FB
40 Bo Wright	ILB
41 Shannon Felder	S
44 Craig Turner	FB
45 Murry Hill	TB
46 Doug Allen	FB
47 Darin Whitlock	C
48 Desmond Holoman	ILB
50 Rob Roberts	C
51 Tommy Cole	NG
53 Todd Roper	ILB
54 Wes Neighbors	C
55 Derrick Thomas	OLB
56 Greg Gilbert	ILB
57 Randy Rockwell	OLB
58 Wayne Davis	ILB
59 George Bethune	OLB
60 Hoss Johnson	OT
61 Butch Lewis	C
62 John McIntosh	OG
63 David Gilmer	OT
65 Derrick Slaughter	DT
67 George Salem	OG
68 Jeff Bentley	OG
72 Joe King	OT
73 Hardy Walker	OT
74 Larry Rose	OT
76 John Fruhmorgen	OT
77 Bill Condon	OG
78 Jon Hand	DT
79 Brent Sowell	DT
80 Joe Smith	WR

Aloha Bowl Rosters



Ray Perkins



Ted Tollner

81 Thornton Chandler	TE
82 Clay Whitehurst	WR
84 Ernest Carroll	TE
85 Howard Cross	TE
86 Angelo Stafford	WR
87 Larry Roberts	DT
89 Philip Brown	OLB
90 Joe Godwin	ILB
91 Craig Epps	OLB
92 Darryl Whetstone	DT
93 Willie Ryles	DT
94 Anthony Smith	NG
95 Curt Jarvis	NG
96 Willie Shephard	ILB
97 Cornelius Bennett	OLB

USC SQUAD

1 Jerome Tyler	S
4 Steve Keith	CB
5 Junior Thurman	CB
6 Tim McDonald	S
7 Sean Salisbury	QB
8 Matt Johnson	CB
10 Don Shafer	PK
13 Jeff Maree	S
15 Chris Sperle	KS
16 Rodney Pete	QB
17 Paul Green	TE
18 Kevin McLean	QB
21 Todd Steele	FB
22 Elbert Watts	CB
23 Randy Tanner	WR
24 Aaron Emanuel	TB
25 Steve Webster	TB
26 Ryan Knight	TB
27 Garrett Breeland	OLB
29 Gary Klein	S
30 Tracy Butts	CB
34 Zeph Lee	TB
35 Rex Moore	ILB
36 Mike Serpa	ILB
37 Kennedy Pola	FB
38 Louis Brock	CB
40 Bill Prindle	S
42 Martin French	CB
46 Greg Cauette	OLB
48 Andy Eddy	FB
49 Fred Crutcher	TB
51 Ron Brown	OLB
55 Joe Walshe	DT
56 Sam Anno	ILB
57 Anthony Ervin	DT
58 Marcus Cotton	OLB
59 Gary Willison	NG
60 Keith Davis	ILB
62 Tom Cox	C
64 Bruce Parks	C-OG
66 David Cadigan	OG-OT
67 Jeff Benson	OT
70 James FitzPatrick	OT
76 Tom Hallock	OG
78 Gaylor Kaumoo	OT
79 Jeff Bregel	OG
81 Ken Henry	WR
82 Lonnie White	WR
83 Hank Norman	WR
84 Martin Chesley	TE
85 Joe Cornier	TE
87 Al Washington	WR
88 Gene Arrington	WR
89 Erik McKee	TE
91 Matt Koart	DT
92 Tony Colorito	NG
93 Deryl Henderson	DT
97 Brent Moore	DT
98 Brett Lane	OLB
99 Troy Richardson	P

Alabama Offense

SE - 17 Greg Richardson
82 Clay Whitehurst
QT - 60 Hoss Johnson
73 Hardy Walker
QG - 63 David Gilmer
62 John McIntosh
C - 54 Wes Neighbors
50 Rob Roberts
SG - 77 Bill Condon
67 George Salem
ST - 74 Larry Rose
72 Joe King
TE - 81 Thornton Chandler
85 Howard Cross
QB - 11 Mike Shula
13 David Smith
TB - 22 Gene Jelks
26 Bobby Humphrey
FB - 44 Craig Turner
24 Mike Bobo
FL - 1 Al Bell
6 Greg Payne

SPECIALISTS: PUNTER—5 Chris Mohr. PLACEMENT—3 Van Tiffin. HOLDER—19 Larry Abney. SNAPPER—47 Darin Whitlock. 61 Butch Lewis. KICKOFF RETURNS—26 Bobby Humphrey, 30 Chester Braggs. PUNT RETURNS—17 Greg Richardson, 1 Al Bell.

USC Offense

SE - 83 Hank Norman
81 Ken Henry
WT - 70 James FitzPatrick
67 Jeff Benson
WG - 79 Jeff Bregel
64 Bruce Parks
C - 62 Tom Cox
64 Bruce Parks
SG - 76 Tom Hallock
66 Dave Cadigan
ST - 78 Gaylord Kaumoo
66 Dave Cadigan
TE - 89 Erik McKee
84 Martin Chesley
QB - 16 Rodney Peete
7 Sean Salisbury
TB—26 Ryan Knight
49 Fred Crutcher
FB - 37 Kennedy Pola
21 Todd Steele
FL - 87 Al Washington
82 Lonnie White

SPECIALISTS: PUNTER—15 Chris Sperle. PLACEMENT—10 Don Shafer. HOLDER—18 Kevin McLean. KICKOFF RETURNS—25 Steve Webster, 82 Lonnie White. PUNT RETURNS—87 Al Washington.

Alabama Defense

SOLB - 97 Cornelius Bennett
55 Derrick Thomas
LT - 78 Jon Hand
65 Derrick Slaughter
NG - 95 Curt Jarvis
51 Tommy Cole
RT - 79 Brent Sowell
87 Larry Roberts
WOLB - Lydell Mitchell
89 Philip Brown
LILB - 58 Wayne Davis
48 Desmond Holoman
RILB - 90 Joe Godwin
53 Todd Roper
LCB - 21 Freddie Robinson
23 Todd Richardson
RCB - 38 Vernon Wilkinson
20 Britton Cooper
SS - 37 Rory Turner
34 Ricky Thomas
S - 27 Kermit Kendrick
41 Shannon Felder

USC Defense

OLB - 58 Marcus Cotton
51 Ron Brown
DT - 91 Matt Koart
55 Joe Walshe
NG - 59 Gary Willison
93 Deryl Henderson
DT - 97 Brent Moore
57 Anthony Ervin
OLB - 27 Garrett Breeland
58 Marcus Cotton
ILB - 60 Keith Davis
35 Rex Moore
ILB - 56 Sam Anno
36 Mike Serpa
CB - 8 Matt Johnson
22 Elbert Watts
CB - 38 Louis Brock
42 Martin French
FS - 1 Jerome Tyler
40 Bill Prindle
SS - 6 Jim McDonald
5 Junior Thurman

Alabama-Southern Cal Comparison

SCORES

(8-2-1)	(6-5)
Bama 20, Georgia 16	USC 20, Illinois 10
Bama 23, Texas A&M 10	Baylor 20, USC 13
Bama 45, Cincinnati 10	Arizona State 24, USC 0
Bama 40, Vanderbilt 20	USC 63, Oregon State 0
Penn State 19, Bama 17	USC 30, Stanford 6
Tennessee 16, Bama 14	Notre Dame 37, USC 3
Bama 28, Memphis State 9	USC 31, Washington State 13
Bama 44, Mississippi State 28	California 14, USC 6
Bama 14, LSU 14	Washington 20, USC 17
Bama 24, Southern Miss 13	USC 17, UCLA 13
Bama 25, Auburn 23	USC 20, Oregon 6

OFFENSE

	BAMA	USC
Avg. Points Per Game	26.7	20.0
First Downs	228	215
Rushing Yards	2182	2151
Avg. Rushing Per Game	198.4	195.5
No. Rushing Plays	506	580
Avg. Yards Per Rush	4.3	3.7
Passing Yards	1999	1731
Avg. Passing Per Game	181.7	157.4
Pass Attempts	235	245
Completions	141	139
Percentage	60.0	56.7
Had Intercepted	8	6
Avg. Yards Per Pass	8.5	7.1
Avg. Yards Per Comp.	14.1	12.5
Total Offensive Yardage	4181	3882
Avg. Yards Per Game	380.1	352.9
Avg. Yards Per Play	5.6	4.7
Avg. Kickoff Return	21.4	17.6
Avg. Punt Return	7.9	6.5
Fumbles-Lost	21-9	26-16
Third Down Efficiency	83-166, 50%	75-184, 40.8%

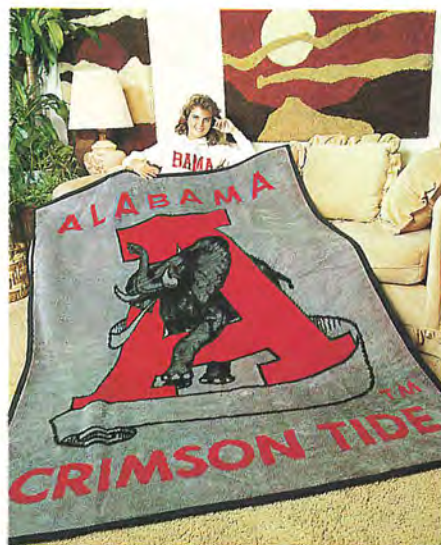
DEFENSE

	BAMA	USC
Avg. Points Per Game	16.2	14.8
First Downs Allowed	206	186
Rushing Yards Allowed	1573	1569
Avg. Rushing Per Game	143.0	142.8
Opponent Rushes	451	442
Opp. Avg. Yards Per Rush	3.5	3.6
Passing Yards Allowed	2020	1619
Avg. Passing Per Game	183.6	147.2
No. Opponent Passes	308	278
Completions	162	141
Percentage	52.6	50.7
Intercepted	14	16
Opp. Avg. Per Pass	6.6	5.8
Opp. Avg. Per Comp.	12.5	11.5
Total Offense Allowed	3593	3188
Opp. Avg. Total Offense	326.6	289.8
Opp. Avg. Per Play	4.7	4.4
Opp. Avg. Kickoff Return	18.6	19.0
Opp. Avg. Punt Return	10.8	3.7
Opp. Fumbles-Lost	22-10	32-16
Opp. Third Down Efficiency	79-181, 43.7%	56-154, 36.4%

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Linemen Of The South

by Chris Roberts

A look at more leading high school senior football players

Alabama Head Football Coach Ray Perkins once said that if he could, he would do all of the Crimson Tide's recruiting in the state of Alabama.

But, as he also said, that will never happen.

It's true that the state of Alabama has more than its share of high school football talent. Recruiters will be busy.

It's also true that Alabama isn't the only state in the Union with quality football talent. Recruiters will be busy crossing state lines. Traditionally, Crimson Tide recruiters do most of their out-of-state work in those states nearest Alabama.

With the national signing date only weeks away (beginning February 12), college scouts are combing the high schools throughout the Southeast.

This is the third of four **'BAMA** reports on prep football prospects. After dealing with in-state linemen and backs in the first two reports, this month's edition lists some of the top linemen from Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

As the other reports, this is just an educated guess. This list doesn't mean that University of Alabama recruiters—or any college recruiters—are in pursuit and ready to sign. However, these are the young men most frequently mentioned as being the top prep prospects in these states.

Those listed are done so alphabetically by states:

FLORIDA

Recruiters from the University of Alabama will be all over Florida before signing day, and it won't be because they got homesick for the beach after the Aloha Bowl. It's because The Sunshine State has groves of prospects.

Jack Allen, like lots of people 6-foot-7, gets

attention. But this 225-pounder, who plays offensive line for Stuart Martin County, also gets his man.

Chris Bromley, a 6-5, 230-pound center from Woodham of Pensacola, has an older brother who plays for Galen Hall at Florida and another brother at Louisiana State. This Bromley will be at a big school, too.

Jack Cooper, at 6-2 and 257, has been known to plant a few opposing backs from his defensive line position for Plant City High.

Clint Davis, a 6-3, 250-pounder from Pensacola Escambia, has worked at linebacker and on the defensive line. His less than 5.0 seconds time in the 40-yard dash makes him a prospect.

Doug Evans, who plays linebacker for Homestead of South Dade, knows his way around a football field. And at 6-6, 215 and with 4.8 time in the 40, he can do something when he gets there in a hurry.

Darius Frazier, a 6-1, 220-pound linebacker from Hallandale, started three years for his team. He also plays basketball and has good quickness.

Eric Fuentes has kept the quarterback at South Miami safe for seasons. At 6-2, 255, he has made his presence felt around recruiters and opposing defensive linemen.

Paul Hunt, a 6-4, 290-pound lineman from Evans of Orlando, wasn't exactly at the top of recruiters' lists, but earned his reputation with his impressive height and weight.

Joey Jordan can both block and catch. And this 6-3, 239-pound tight end from Riverview of Sarasota will be a catch for some lucky college football team.

Jose Josik is another tight end who has caught passes and the eyes of recruiters. He is 6-3, 210 with good speed from Tampa Jesuit.

Darryl Kirby, at 6-4, 225, has been part of the defensive line that has put Jones of Orlando in the playoffs year after year.

Kirk Kirkpatrick plays tight end for Brandon, but will go to college as a linebacker. He is 6-3, 221 and has been clocked at 4.7 in the 40.

Eric Luallen, a teammate of Josik at Tampa Jesuit, has definitely been on lists checked twice by college scouts and double-

teamed by opposing defenders. He is a 6-4, 280 offensive lineman.

Dwayne Moore is considered by some sources to be one of Florida's top players. An offensive and defensive lineman for Ribault of Jacksonville, he is 6-7 and 265 pounds.

Ronnie Mooror of Escambia knows about winning. His team won the state 4A title last season, and this 6-2, 220-pound linebacker had something to do with it.

Mark Murray is a wrestler at Apopka, and as a linebacker he has been known to pin a few runners. Murray is 6-4, 215 and also plays tight end.

Chris Nicolas is noteworthy. He is 6-2, 215 and plays linebacker for Clearwater. Scott, his older brother, was signed by Cleveland after playing linebacker for Miami. Nicolas was in a car wreck that killed a teammate returning from a recruiting visit to Florida State, but he was uninjured.

Willie Peguese, who plays linebacker for Southridge of Miami, is called a "growing boy" at 6-5, 220 with better-than-average speed on one of the state's better-than-average football teams.

Thomas Rayam, a 6-6, 265-pound offensive tackle or center from Orlando Jones, is another with a good program with big siblings. One of his brothers played defensive end at Notre Dame.

Doug Robinson, a 6-4, 200-pound linebacker, is definitely a hero for 1984 2A state champion Port St. Joe. His team fell from the playoffs in 1985, but that didn't hurt his standing in the eyes of recruiters. He also plays linebacker.

Rich Sanda's stock has been rising this season for playoff-bound Columbus of Miami. He is a 6-7, 240-pound lineman.

Hosey Smith makes his grades off the field, and on the field makes his tackles with speed. This 6-2, 245-pound defensive lineman plays for Pahokee.

Vince Sparks, a 6-3, 260-pound offensive lineman, is a certain prospect from Pensacola Woodham, a certain playoff prospect annually.

Trey Walker is a big-league contender. At 6-5, 215, he was one of the smallest linemen last year at Bradenton Manatee. He does the job well at tight end.

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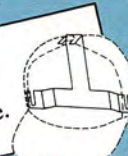
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Anthony Ware, a 6-5, 220-pound lineman at Belle Glade Glades Central, is the kind of player recruiters dream about. He's a force to be reckoned with.

Glenn Watts moved from Atlanta and hasn't stopped hitting the competition. At 6-4, 245, he plays defensive line for South Plantation.

Lamar Williams is a name on everyone's lips. He was all-state last season at Escambia, and at 6-3, 270, plays on both sides of the football.

Mike Williams of North Miami is 6-4, 235 and made his mark this season as a tight end.

David Wizicoski anchors the line for St. Petersburg Northeast. He is 6-6 and weighs 260.

GEORGIA

The state of Georgia, another large population state, rivals Florida for turning out major college football prospects.

Matt Avera worked on offense and defense for Columbia Shaw, but scouts are looking for this 6-2, 205-pounder to play linebacker.

Brian Benio is a 6-3, 215-pounder with 4.8 speed who plays linebacker at Atlanta's

Roswell High School. And his ability means he's going to play linebacker for a big school, too.

Hiawatha Berry has an easy-to-remember name. And this 6-2, 260-pound nose guard from Winder Barrow has the ability opposing players and recruiters remember, too.

Henry Blades is a 6-3, 260-pound lineman from South West Dekalb. He has played both offense and defense for the Panthers, and has played both well.

Jeff Brown earned honors as *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* "Player of the Week" during the season for Dunwoody High. And he's done better than starring just one week as a 6-2, 225-pound linebacker.

Eric Carter is a 6-3, 235-pound lineman from Savannah Memorial Day. Scouts say he's got potential.

Stacy Clark has done the job this season as a 6-3, 220-pound lineman at Alamo Wheeler High.

The only thing questionable about 6-3, 200-pound Raji Gordon is his grades. But there's no question about his football ability. This Lakeside High linebacker can hit.

Spencer Hammonds is a 6-2, 205-pound linebacker from the perennially strong West Rome football team.

Chester Hightower led his region in interceptions as a 6-3, 210-pound linebacker from Thomasville Central. Lots of colleges would like a piece of his action.

Marty Howell is just one of the latest stars from always-star-studded Valdosta High. At 6-2 and 275 pounds, reports say this offensive lineman's only problem is lack of speed.

The only thing that could keep Wesley Journey from a trip to a big college is grades. But when it comes to playing, this 6-3, 260-pounder from Grady of Atlanta is a trip.

Jeff Maloof, a 6-5, 240-pound defensive tackle, may be a name for state football followers to remember. He played high school football at St. Pius.

Don Millen is a 6-4, 205-pound linebacker from Atlanta Marist. He's got the grades, and also plays tight end.

Mike Miller is a 6-2, 235-pound linebacker who led Washington County High in tackles from his defensive end position in 1985.

Scott Mitchell is a 6-2, 235-pound nose guard from Clarke Central of Athens. His tough play has got recruiters' attention.

Chuck Morman played offense tackle at Mitchell-Baker of Camilla, but this 6-8, 290-pounder will make his waves in college on defense.

Deandra Neal has played center, defensive tackle and nose guard at Northside of Atlanta. At 6-2, 300, he has excellent strength.

Marvin Oglesby closed in on a school re-

cord for most tackles at Decatur's Towers High. At 6-3, 222, his strength and speed make him a prospect.

Roy Pennyman, at 6-3 and 257 pounds, has been blocked some by minor injuries this season. But when not hurting, this offensive guard can do some blocking, too.

Huey Richardson has left an opposing runner or two high and dry for Atlanta's Lakeside High. He is a 6-5, 215-pound linebacker.

David Roberts led Griffin High School in receiving from his tight end position. At 6-4, 220 pounds, he has impressed recruiters with his blocking ability.

Mark Roberts led Dalton High in tackles this season. He is a 6-5, 215-pound linebacker.

Greg Shepherd plays linebacker at Colquitt Miller. At 6-2, 205, he led his team in tackles and also gained more than 1,200 yards as a runner.

Joe Siffri's excellent feet movement has put him as the hunted by several big-name schools. He is a 6-4, 245-pound lineman from Henderson.

Pat Simmons did quite a bit of blocking from his tight end position for Thomason High. But this 6-4, 240-pounder can catch, too.

Tim Stancil is a 6-1, 225-pound linebacker from Smyrna's Campbell High. They say he works well against the pass.

Frank Thomas plays tight end for Columbus, but selling his grades may make him blue. But if his grades improve, this 6-4, 230-pounder will be a catch for someone.

Rob Wainwright, reports say, knows how to block the run. And he's done just that for Robert E. Lee of Thomason. Wainwright is 6-4, 250.

Mike Zuga's name isn't necessarily at the bottom of everyone's list. Just many of those in alphabetical order. He is a 6-2, 225-pound offensive lineman from Newnan.

KENTUCKY

University of Kentucky Head Football Coach Jerry Claiborne called 1985 "not a good year" for recruiting in the Bluegrass State. He was quoted as saying that next year should be better for prep football players. One problem every year in Kentucky is high school spring training—or the lack thereof. After all, it's basketball season.

Colborne Clark is one of the state's premier linemen. At 6-3 and 255 pounds for Ownesboro, he has gotten recruiters to come north.

Don Gardner is another of the state's better linemen, and exposure at Trinity of Louisville has aided him. And the fact that he's 6-5 and 225 pounds didn't hurt.

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LOUISIANA

There's not a Florida or Georgia hotbed of prep prospects from Louisiana this year. But the state that calls itself "Sportsman's Paradise" has a few heavenly high school prospects.

Roosevelt Collins is one. He skies over the opposition as a 6-6, 220-pound tight end from Shreveport's Booker T. Washington High.

Ross Downs is a certified "blue-chipper" by one source. He is a 6-2, 240-pound defensive guard from Holy Cross.

Jeff Easterly has been getting attention from local recruiters as a 6-1, 230-pound defensive lineman from Baton Rouge's Woodlawn.

Steve Hudson has gotten his share of attention with his share of hits on opponents. He's a 6-5, 230-pound defensive lineman from Monroe Ouachita Christian.

Warde Manuel is a first team prep All-America. Enough said. And at 6-5, 255, he plays a mean defensive tackle for New Orleans Brother Martin.

Henry Powell of Pontchatoula is a runner, tackler and kicker. At 6-1 and 210 pounds, his linebacking skills are creating a demand from recruiters.

Mike Shepherd, a teammate of Hudson's at Ouachita, is one of the best offensive linemen in the state. He's 6-4, 250, is on the track and field team and in the National Honor Society.

Mike Stonebreaker has broken a few runners, too. He's a 6-0, 210-pound linebacker from River Ridge John Curtis. His father was a linebacker with the New Orleans Saints.

MISSISSIPPI

College football recruiters are among the few who can say "thank goodness for Mississippi" without it being considered a slur in the Magnolia State. Here are a few of the reasons why:

John Clark is a 6-2, 240-pound linebacker from West Jones. He played both offense and defense in Laurel.

Demetrius Hill is called "King of the Hill" by opponents, says one source. He is a 6-3, 220-pound defensive lineman from Meridian. Grades may limit his college options.

Micah Johnson, at 6-5, 225, has been mentioned as a prospect. And he was definitely mentioned as New Hope's tight end.

Dwayne King doesn't weigh much—only 205 pounds on his 6-3 frame—but he held down a linebacking job at McGee.

Lee Lott has a lot of height, and at 6-6, 235 from Puckett, he has stuck it to a lot of defenders from his linebacking position.

Andy Parrish is a formidable sight on the line around Starkville. He is 6-3 and 275 pounds.

Bob Phillips made his mark this season at Heritage of Columbus. He is a 6-4, 240-pound lineman.

Anthony Ramsey kept Gulfport's line clear this year. He is a 6-5, 275-pounder with a college career ahead.

Tony Robertson was an all-city performer at Callaway of Jackson. He is a 6-3, 268-pound lineman.

R.T. Ward played line at Pascagoula, and will play line for a college somewhere next season. At 6-5, 220, he's attracted some stares.

Ken Williams is a teammate at Pascagoula, and together with Ward held the line. Williams is 6-4, 245.

TENNESSEE

The Knoxville News-Sentinel created a "Top 25" list of high school prospects recently, and that list was impressive. And hard hitting.

Brent Collins headed it. At 6-3, 225 from the playoff-bound Jefferson County, he's got a few decisions to make: Which big school to attend? And play linebacker or tight end? Let's wait and see.

Doug Baird, a 6-5, 265-pound two-way

tackle from Waverly, owns 4.9 speed. He also plays basketball.

Brian Cagle is a 6-7, 235-pound lineman from Savannah. His height makes him stand out to scouts.

John Hudson made a name for himself as a 6-3, 235-pound offensive lineman from Paris.

David Lenoir from Memphis ECS is another with a decision to make. At 6-4, 235, he's got to decide about playing either offensive line or linebacker. He played both in high school.

Andy McCarroll played both fullback and linebacker at Memphis University School. He's 6-4, 212.

Brian McGee, sources say, should move from linebacker into the line when he makes the transition to college football. From Cleveland, he's 6-2, 235.

Wilson Neely is one of the state's hotter prospects. At 6-3, 224 from Hamilton of Memphis, he is perhaps a college linebacker. Or tight end or running back.

Robbin Perry is also high on Tennessee's top prospect list. He's a 6-3, 270-pound offensive lineman from Brentwood Academy of Nashville. He also played defense, and will be playing college ball somewhere.

Eric Thomas is a 6-2, 200-pound linebacker from Oak Ridge.

And From Outside The Southeast

There have been hints from Coach Perkins that Alabama has expanded its traditional recruiting territory of the Southeast this year and reports have come from various publications about a number of linemen in other states said to be considering the Crimson Tide. Among them are:

Mike Armstrong, a 6-6, 260-pound offensive lineman from Trinity High in Hickory, North Carolina. He has 4.9 speed in the 40.

Mark Barry, 6-7, 290, is an offensive lineman at Main South High in Park Ridge, Illinois.

Danny Cash, 6-6, 274, is an offensive lineman at Spartanburg (South Carolina) High. He runs a 5.0 40.

Roderick Daniels, 6-3, 235, is a defensive lineman at Woodson High in Washington, D.C.

Cecil Gray, 6-4, 255, is an offensive lineman at Norfolk (Virginia) Catholic.

Vance Hammond is a 6-8, 250-pound two-way tackle for Dorman High School in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He is also a top basketball player.

Tim High of Raleigh (North Carolina) Millbrook is a 6-3, 235-pound center and nose-

guard who is expected to be a college linebacker. He is also an outstanding wrestler. His brother, Curt, plays at South Carolina.

John Jacobs, 6-4, 220, is a linebacker at Smithfield-Selma in North Carolina.

Eric Jonassen, 6-6, 286, is an offensive lineman at St. Joseph's High in Baltimore, Maryland.

Harold Jones, 6-3 1/2, 265 is a defensive lineman at Bristow, Oklahoma.

Willie Jones, 6-0, 218, is a linebacker at Spartanburg, South Carolina, who may have grade problems.

Anthony Kearney, 6-6, 235, is a tight end and defensive end at Indian River High in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Rod Mitchell is a 6-9, 223-pound tight end in Cheraw, South Carolina.

Tim Rioux of East High in Toms River, New Jersey, is a 6-5, 285-pound offensive lineman.

Tim Ryan, 6-5, 245, is a defensive tackle at Oak Grove High in San Jose, California.

Kenny Vaughn, 6-3, 221, is a linebacker at DiVilbus High in Toledo, Ohio.





Craig Turner:

He's Made A New Name

by Kirk McNair

Bad luck in 1984 may have proved good luck in 1985 for both Bama and Turner

He's not Touchdown Turner any more. But Craig Turner has made a new name for himself as Alabama's fullback.

Alabama's dire 1984 football season may very well have been in part because on the eve of the opener against Boston College it was learned that Turner would not be eligible for the season, a technical casualty of academics. He wasn't short on grades, but he was short on hours. However, the minus of 1984 turned into a plus in 1985.

Although Ricky Moore had been one of the nation's finest fullbacks through his junior season, Moore had an off year as a senior. Almost everyone thinks Ricky suffered from a lack of competition. Had Turner been pushing Moore, Moore would have pushed himself. And a 1983 version of Moore might have kept the Crimson Tide from a 5-6 season in 1984.

Of course, if Turner had been Moore's backup man last season, he wouldn't have been Bama's starter this year. And as a senior the second time around in 1985, Turner bested Moore's 1984 totals and Alabama certainly did better as a team. This year Turner rushed for 480 yards on 117 tries (4.1 yard per attempt), compared to Moore's 376 yards on 113 carries (3.3) in 1984. Turner caught 25 passes for 224 yards against Moore's 1984 totals of 19 for 135. And Turner scored four touchdowns compared to two for Moore.

The enforced redshirt season for Turner in

1984 followed a disappointing 1983. Craig had earned a fondness from Alabama fans—not to mention a nickname—in his sophomore year. In Bama's last year of the wish-bone Turner was the Tide's designated scorer, coming in at the deep spot in a power I formation to leap over the line of scrimmage on short yardage plays. In his special situation role he rushed 61 times for 148 yards (the same 4.1 yards per carry he had this year), but scored 12 touchdowns. He also earned a spot in storied Crimson Tide history when he went in from a yard out against Illinois in the Liberty Bowl for the winning points in Coach Paul Bryant's final game, his 323rd coaching victory.

Turner lines up in Crimson and White one more time. He'll be at fullback when the Tide takes on Southern Cal in the Aloha Bowl December 28. But—in no small part because he did finish his career in 1985 instead of 1984—there's a good chance more football awaits Touchdown Turner.

Turner is 5-11 and weighs 217 pounds. He came to Alabama as a 190-pound halfback. The fullback who came in with him was Ricky Moore and it was Moore who was a force with the varsity in 1981 through 1984. Turner spent most of that first year as a star on the junior varsity. One day in spring practice he became a fullback. "They called for a fullback in a drill we were doing and I jumped in there," said Craig. "I knew after that day that if I was going to be a fullback I would have to be a lot bigger."

Turner has always been a dedicated weightroom worker. He increased his time on the weights, stayed in Tuscaloosa through the summer between his freshman and sophomore seasons, and was a 215-pound fullback when drills began prior to his 1982 season. Bruce Arians, now head coach at Temple, was the first of three running back coaches Turner would play for at Alabama and it was Arians who found Turner's soph-

Craig Turner earned most of his yardage the hard way, right up the middle, but Alabama's fullback was also used on sweeps and as a pass receiver, and occasionally going over the top.

Spectrum-Southeast Photo

omore specialty—the leap over the line in short yardage situations.

When Ray Perkins became Alabama's head coach prior to the 1983 season, the wishbone was junked for a more diversified attack. Turner did not adjust well. "I had played in a pro type offense in high school, but high school football and college football are worlds apart," said Craig. Plus, he was no longer the tailback, and the assignments in the new offense were far more complex than they had ever been for him. "I studied it everyday, watched film all the time, and finally it started to sink in," he said.

Nevertheless, owing partly to injuries, partly to his slow adjustment, partly to a new philosophy that saw substitutes having less playing time than under Bryant, and mostly to the performance of Moore, Turner was almost a non-person on the first Crimson Tide team of Perkins.

"I had a series of ankle sprains in 1983 and only played in three or four games," remembered Craig. "By the time I started getting well Ricky was having a terrific year, getting 100 yards every week. There's no question that Ricky beat me out for those first three years, but I think I pushed him a couple of years and that helped him too. Last year there wasn't anyone to push him since I couldn't play. If I had, he might have done better and Alabama might have done better." Official Alabama statistics show Craig playing in eight games as a junior, but he played at fullback in only three of them. The rest of his action was on specialty teams. After scoring 12 touchdowns as a sophomore he had only eight carries for four yards and one touchdown in the first year of the new offense.

Turner didn't let his subpar year get him down. In the spring of '84 Moore was excused from football practice to play baseball. With Moore out of the picture, Turner showed his stuff. He was a standout of spring drills, winning the Johnny Musso Most Improved Offensive Back Award. Although Moore was still listed as number one (based primarily on previous performance) when fall practice got underway in August, Turner was obviously in the playing picture. Then came the blockbuster. Craig Turner would not be playing football his senior season.

Craig made the most of his situation. "I was the scout team fullback running against our first defense," he said. "I know that year made me a better football player because we had a good defense. And, believe it or not, I had a good time. I know not many people would enjoy playing on the scout team, but it was the only football available to me. Prac-



Craig Turner

tices were my games. I tried to work hard every day. It was my goal for our defense not to be able to stop me."

Rockey Felker, who took over as Alabama's running back coach last spring, thinks the cloud of Turner's enforced absence had a silver lining. "Missing last season made him a little hungrier," said Felker. "Football means a lot to him and he's demonstrated that every time out, in practice and games. He wants to take every snap in practice and games."

The fullback position in Alabama's offensive scheme has diverse responsibilities. But it all begins with blocking, and Felker says that is where Turner shines. "He's had a real good year doing things that for the most part go unnoticed by those watching the games," said the Bama assistant coach. "One reason Mike (Shula, quarterback) has had such a good year is because Craig has had such a good year picking up the blitzes. That's one of the best things he does. He has good eyes and he makes good decisions. He's done a very consistent job of that.

"You want a big fullback who can take the pounding of running it up in the middle, but you also need him to be big and strong enough to take on linebackers and defensive ends, most of whom usually weigh in the 240 to 250 range. Craig gives us that and he also gives us experience. Against Southern Miss this year they came with a safety blitz we hadn't worked on, but Craig picked it right up. It wasn't really his man to get, but he saw it, picked the guy up, and we turned it into about a 30-yard play when Mike dumped it off to (freshman tailback Gene) Jelks. And that's just one of many times during the year

he made that kind of big play that almost no one notices."

The various assignments given the Alabama fullback which made the adjustment from the wishbone difficult for Turner also make it a fun position for him to play. "The fullback in our pro type offense is a lot more than just a blocker or inside runner," said Turner. "We get the ball on outside sweeps, we have a lot of breakback plays, we run the draw to the fullback against certain defenses, plus we catch a lot of passes." Not to mention still having an occasional over-the-top opportunity to remind everyone of Touchdown Turner.

Turner catches passes because he's got good hands. He was particularly adept as Bama revived an all-time favorite, the whoopee. "That play gave us big first downs on third down a lot of times this year," noted Felker. "And the most first downs probably came on short yardage runs by Craig. You might not want to give it to a small back when you need a yard or two; you want to go to that big guy."

Turner notes that "Some teams don't like to use a fullback like we do, but I think fullbacks would like our system. We get a lot of one-on-one situations where it's just the fullback against a linebacker. That can mean you might get by him with speed or a head fake, or it may mean you have to try to run over him. Personally, I think I'd rather him take the head fake, but if he doesn't someone's got to pay the price."

Both Felker and Turner think his ability to stay injury-free this year were important to his—and Alabama's—success. "I hurt my ankle before the Georgia game and I was listed as doubtful," said Turner. "Coach Perkins watched us during warmups. I was surprised when I heard my name called before we went back out for the kickoff. That was the first time I knew I was going to start. The only other injury I had this year was a little twisted ankle against Memphis State. But you have to play with a little pain if you're going to play football."

"Craig has worked so hard on the weights and become so much stronger that he avoids injury and when he does get injured he can overcome it," said Felker. "I think it was very fortunate for us that he was healthy all year."

In addition to the Aloha Bowl he will definitely play in the East-West Shrine Game in San Francisco January 11, and he may have an opportunity to perform in Mobile's Senior Bowl January 18. And after that he'll be back in school, finishing his degree in education with a career goal of working with children.

He hopes there's a chance at professional



Alabama's balanced offense includes a lot of handoffs from quarterback Mike Shula to fullback Craig Turner. But Turner repays the favor frequently by his blocking and receiving for Shula in the passing game.

Spectrum-Southeast Photo

football, too. "I'm looking forward to having a chance," he said. "I'll have that by playing in the East-West game and letting the scouts see me. I've wanted to be a pro since I was a little kid, so it would be a dream come true. I love the game."

Felker also thinks he'll have a chance. "I think Craig's what they are looking for in a pro fullback," said the Tide coach. "And he's certainly deserving of the opportunity."

Turner will take a lot of memories with him when he leaves Alabama, including at least one that he has on videotape. "My mother taped all the Alabama games, beginning with the Liberty Bowl game," said Craig. "I've got that tape of me scoring the last touchdown for Coach Bryant. I've also got a big framed picture of it. I'll never forget that. If I ever get married and have kids I'll have something to tell them about."

But his most fond memories will be of people he has met at Alabama. "I'll remember the guys I've played with, particularly those 12 of us who walked out for the Auburn game. I've had a wonderful time here, partic-

ularly when you consider that I came from out-of-state. I've loved it at Alabama.

"I came to Alabama because I enjoyed it here more than anywhere else I went when I was making my (recruiting) visits. I used to watch Alabama on television and Coach Bryant was just bigger than life. Not many got to play for him. I thank God I got to play for Coach Bryant for two years.

"And I'll remember this (1985) team. I roomed with Al Bell, but it was like we were all one big family. Hardy Walker and David Gilmer and Wes Neighbors and Cornelius Bennett and on and on and on.

"In some ways I wish I had another year. Alabama's going to be a good team next year. I hope I helped some of the young backs; I know I talked to them a lot. One of the nicest things that's happened to me was Gene Jelks telling me after the Auburn game that he hated to see me leave. I'm going to miss those young ones. I think Gene and Bobby (Humphrey) did a wonderful job. And I think they're going to have a fine backfield next year."

Felker knows of Turner's value to the team in helping the young backs. "He demonstrated a lot of leadership for us," said Felker. "His confidence and experience were important to them. They didn't hesitate to ask him for help and he didn't hesitate to give it."

There's no way to know for sure what would have happened to Alabama and to Craig Turner if he had performed in 1984. He may have taken over the first team job and starred. More than likely, though, he would have been too long in the shadows of Ricky Moore to have gained much notice. Because his Alabama finish was delayed a year the pro scouts know a lot more about him. And early reports are they like what they see.

Where would Alabama have been in 1985 if Craig Turner had finished up his career in 1984 as scheduled? The answer to that will most likely come next fall when the men who backed up Turner this year—Mike Bobo and Doug Allen, along with redshirted freshman Bernard Bennett—can be expected to be the leading contenders.

The Birmingham Connection

by Tommy Deas

New Tiders were friends and teammates before joining Bama

You might see Alabama freshmen basketball players Michael Ansley, Cat Smith and Bill DeVaughn after practice or after a game going somewhere and hanging out together.

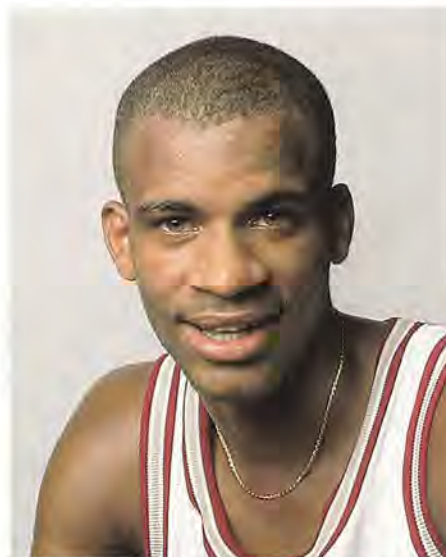
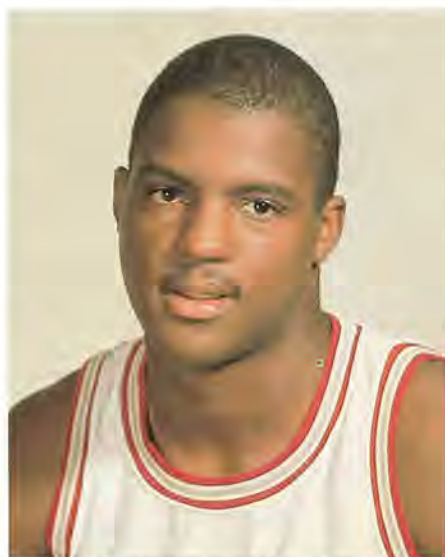
After all, they do have a lot in common. All three were highly-recruited in high school as seniors last year, all three are from Birmingham, all three played this summer in the Birmingham Summer League, and all three have played on all-star teams together.

And, besides, they have been friends off the court for a long time now.

"We really didn't have an idea we would go to the same place," says Ansley, a 6-foot-7, 215-pound bruiser who averaged 23 points and 18 rebounds per game last year at Jackson-Olin High School. All three of us would hang out together after school. We've been playing together (on all-star teams) since tenth grade and we would get together all the time after school and Cat would come pick us up. After games, we'd go out with the girls and get a couple of Cokes and talk about recruiting and what schools needed us the most. In a way, we really didn't want to separate."

Alabama lost one of this season's recruits, John Brown, when he elected to transfer to Southern Mississippi before the season. What remained were three Birmingham prospects who were already bound by friendship. All three liked what Alabama had to offer, and all stand to follow in the tradition of the Birmingham Connection, a recruiting pipeline that has brought such talent as Reggie King, Wendell Hudson, Buck Johnson and Ennis Whatley to play for the Tide.

Ansley is already figuring into the plans of Tide Coach Wimp Sanderson, who is trying to develop the 6-7 freshman as an inside rebounding force. Smith, an alumnus of Hayes High School, has been slowed by a hip pointer but figures to develop into a defensive specialist as a 6-6 small forward. De-



Michael Ansley (left) and Cat Smith continue the Alabama tradition of landing basketball players from the Birmingham area.

Vaughn has been forced to miss much early season game and practice time with a broken foot, but the Parker High graduate hopes to eventually give Alabama some power at center with his solid 6-9 frame.

"We've had a lot of fine players from Birmingham," Sanderson says. "Birmingham has been one of the things that has made Alabama basketball over the years. One, the competition and the coaching up there are very good. Two, we've had a lot of success with players from that area."

"We were very fortunate to sign three players from Birmingham last year, although one of them (DeVaughn) is hurt right now. We always like to sign as many as we can from that area."

Smith found himself inspired by one of Alabama's Birmingham standouts, current senior star Buck Johnson. The two played together on the same Hayes High School team that won the state championship in 1982. Down the road, Smith found that his talents had developed along the same line as John-

son's and the two are now reunited as teammates for the Crimson Tide.

"I was a freshman at Hayes when he was a senior," Smith says. "We were pretty good friends. I knew he would be great, and I felt if I worked hard then someday I might make it, too."

"He kind of inspired me. He told me it was a good school and I figured since we came from similar backgrounds it might be a good place for me, too. I liked the features that the University offered, especially the academics. I'm here for academics."

Smith, an accounting major, was a National Honor Society member in high school with a 3.89 grade-point average, and was his senior class president.

DeVaughn, though his progress has been slowed by his foot injury, was a highly sought recruit last season. A Class 6A all-state player as a senior, DeVaughn follows in the footsteps of such former Parker High School/Alabama greats as Wendell Hudson, Robert Scott and Eddie Phillips to Alabama. He re-

members the friendship among the three frosh recruits developing over the summer with a Police Athletic League all-star team.

That Birmingham all-star team played in Owens County, California, and in Phoenix, Arizona, in national tournaments, placing fourth in the Business Congress Invitational tournament in California. While on the road, the three found they liked each others' company and began to form their friendship.

"Our summer before our senior year we were playing on that team that went to play in California," DeVaughn said. "We started hanging out then. We would play basketball at a rec center or somewhere, or go to a park or a movie or a mall or a beach somewhere.

"We would talk about us three playing together somewhere and that Alabama would be a good place for us to go."

When they weren't playing together, the three were often playing against each other. Parker, Jackson-Olin and Hayes

found themselves locked in some of Birmingham's most heated basketball games, with the three often facing each other in matchups. Hayes tended to dominate the games, but Ansley kids that he was the star of the three when the showdowns came.

That wasn't as much the case when the three were juniors, though, because Smith was considered the biggest recruiting prize early on. Ansley matured as a senior, however, and found a lot of schools showing sudden interest.

"He didn't realize that he was going to be recruited as highly as he was," Smith says of Ansley. "I got all the early recruiting attention.

"We all played against each other and played hard all the time, I kind of felt like we would go together wherever we went. It makes me feel a whole lot more comfortable. In a normal case when you go to a school, you probably wouldn't know anybody."

Ansley says the connection binds them both on and off the court.

"They were some great defenders against me," Ansley says. "Each of us knows the other's moves from playing against each other.

"I felt like I wanted to stay in the state, and Alabama had a great coaching staff and I liked the school. I feel Coach Sanderson is one of the best coaches in the SEC (Southeastern Conference).

"I feel more comfortable with that, because there's a lot more people here from in the state. I like that better."

And looking down the line, DeVaughn thinks that the common link will help the three as they mature and take over important roles in the Alabama basketball system.

"I think it kind of makes us work harder," the budding center said. "I think it will make us closer as a team and make us play harder."

One Man's All-Birmingham Tide Team

FIRST TEAM

When then-Alabama Basketball Coach C.M. Newton signed Wendell Hudson to a basketball scholarship in 1969, the face of Alabama basketball changed forever. The first black athlete ever to sign with the Crimson Tide, Hudson began a tradition that has led to the reemergence of respectability for Alabama basketball.

A team that went 8-18 the year before Hudson became eligible as a sophomore (Hudson averaged 18 points and 15 rebounds per game on the freshman team when freshmen were ineligible for varsity competition, and his frosh team often drew more fans than the varsity) became a winner before the 6-foot-6 forward left, finishing second in the Southeastern Conference and gaining a berth in the National Invitation Tournament.

But Hudson's signing did other important things for University of Alabama basketball. It opened the door for black athletes at Alabama and began the modern era of basketball for the Crimson Tide. It also started the Birmingham Connection, a virtual pipeline that has funneled basketball recruits to Alabama from such traditionally black Birmingham schools as Parker, Hayes, Jackson-Olin and Carver.

Since then, Alabama basketball squads have found a large part of their talent owing to Birmingham basketball back-grounds, and the tradition has continued with this year's all-Birmingham recruiting class of Michael Ansley, Cat Smith and Bill DeVaughn. The Tide's first recruit of 1986, Michael Dizaar, is a 6-7 sleeper from Carver of Birmingham who is a still-developing prospect.

A hypothetical Crimson Tide basketball All-Star team could only start with players from Birmingham because Bama has attracted great players from throughout the state and nation over the years. But with the wealth of basketball talent found on Crimson Tide squads that has come from Birmingham, a look back at an All-Birmingham Tide All-Star team is interesting.

Here, then, is one man's idea of a first- and second-team all-star team made up entirely of Birmingham players who have played at the University of Alabama, beginning with that modern era ushered in by Hudson.

Reggie King—This Alabama All-American center did more at 6-6, 225, than many men with many more inches and pounds could ever hope to do. King was the Southeastern Conference's outstanding freshman, sophomore and junior, and was the SEC Athlete of the Year in 1978-79, his senior year. He was a two-time SEC player of the year. King is still the Tide's all-time leading scorer with 2,168 points, and averaged over 22 points and 10 rebounds per game as a senior. Without much question, this Jackson-Olin product stands among the greatest Alabama basketball players in history.

Wendell Hudson—Hudson, who prepped at Parker, was another Tide All-America. In 1972-73, Hudson led the Southeastern Conference in scoring with 20.7 points per game at forward, and was fourth in the conference in rebounds with 12.1 per contest. Hudson holds the tenth spot on Alabama's all-time leading scorers list (despite having only three years of eligibility and missing half of one of those with a broken wrist), and he scored over 600 points his senior season. Only King, who scored 747 points his senior year, has scored more points in one season than Hudson.

T.R. Dunn—A 6-4 guard from Birmingham's West End high school, Dunn averaged 13 points and seven rebounds as a senior, gaining All-America recognition for the 1976-77 season. Dunn stands as ninth on the school's all-time rebounding list and is the number 13 scorer. Known also for his outstanding defensive talents, Dunn is currently a starter for the Denver Nuggets of the National Basketball Association and is consistently one of the league's leading rebounders at the guard position. Former Tennessee Head Coach Ray Mears paid Dunn a compliment when he said "We call him 'The Ghost,' because he seems to come from nowhere to always make the big play."

Ennis Whatley—Though the Phillips High School graduate

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played only two years in an Alabama uniform before electing to enter the NBA draft on hardship. Whatley may be the most talented guard ever to play at Alabama. Scoring 15 points per game while dishing out almost seven assists per contest, Whatley also contributed four rebounds per game as a sophomore. In his ability to control a game, Whatley was almost unequalled. Even his 220 assists as a sophomore do not tell the story of how Whatley controlled the court. Currently campaigning in the NBA with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Buck Johnson—It may seem premature to put Johnson on the first-team All-Birmingham Tide squad before he finishes his senior season, but Johnson is another player whose talents sometimes seem unlimited. A 6-7 forward, Johnson is campaigning for his third All-SEC season, and is on many All-America checklists. After leading Hayes to back-to-back state championships in high school, Johnson has been a driving force at Alabama almost since the day he arrived. Johnson led the team in scoring last year with 16 points per game, and was third in the SEC in rebounding with 9.4 boards per contest. Johnson figures to join Alabama's NBA delegation after this year, and is projected as a very high draft choice.

SECOND TEAM

Robert Scott—Another Parker product, "Rah Rah" is another all-timer for Alabama at guard. Scott was All-SEC as a senior in 1980, when he averaged almost 15 points and led the team with 125 assists. Scott became one of the top 10 all-time scorers at Alabama with 1,321 career points.

Eddie Phillips—Alabama's second all-time scorer, Phillips was listed to All-SEC teams as a sophomore, junior and senior, when he averaged 17 points and 9.8 rebounds per contest. Also the Tide's number four all-time rebounder with 1,129, the Parker graduate was a force at power forward at 6-7, 225.

Ray Odums—Carver's Odums, a 6-2 Tide guard, has showed his all-around athletic ability since leaving Alabama by becoming a standout cornerback in the Canadian Football League and with the United States Football League's Memphis Showboats. Odums is Alabama's all-time career assist leader with 463 in a three-year career (as Hudson, he had to play freshman basketball one year), and was named to All-SEC teams in each of his three years with the varsity.

Anthony Murray—Another fine guard, Murray came from Glenn High School and had the unique distinction at 6-2 of making third-team All-SEC at guard in 1975-76 and forward in 1977-78. Murray averaged 8.6 points his senior year, and dished out 127 assists to lead the team.

Alan House—Ensley High School's House, a 6-8 center, was actually signed before Hudson and played his junior and senior year's in Hudson's first two years of varsity competition. His play at center as a sophomore, junior and senior coincided with Alabama's rise as a basketball power in the South. House averaged 15 points and 9 rebounds as a senior, and opened with way for Hudson on the inside. House was named third-team All-SEC for his play in 1970-71 and 1971-72.

With Alabama's continued recruiting success in Birmingham, the list is sure to have some changes as the Tide continues to sign standouts from the Birmingham area. Current Tide point guard Terry Coner, a junior from Phillips High, is already making a run at fame, and recent Tide point guard Eric Richardson (1980-84) also deserves mention.

And with three current Birmingham freshmen and another recruit already signed, the Birmingham Connection still seems a force in Tide basketball.

—Tommy Deas

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/JANUARY '86

Track Team Looks Fast

by Lisa Dickerson

Mitchell expects runners to lead way to improvement

Head Track Coach John Mitchell expects the 1986 Alabama women's indoor track team to have one of its most successful seasons ever.

"We've got a chance to have a real good team," said Mitchell. "We don't have a large team, but the quality of the athletes indicates we'll be stronger than last year when we were fifth in the (Southeastern) conference."

Mitchell expects a change from the norm in that Alabama—traditionally strong in the field events—should be led by the runners. Mention of Bama women runners has to begin with senior Lillie Leatherwood. She was injured and unable to compete last spring, but Leatherwood was a gold medalist in the 1984 Olympics and is the defending NCAA champion and recordholder (53.12) in the 400.

However, Leatherwood will have some help in sprint events this year. Another 1984 Olympian, freshman Pauline Davis, is highly-regarded in the 60, the 300 and the 440 and as a member of the mile relay team. She has best times of 11.44 in the 100 meters and 22.7 in the 200. Newcomers Veronica Connally and Flora Hyacinth are also talented in the shorter events. A junior transfer, Connally is expected to contribute in the 60 and is also working on the hurdles. She has posted times of 11.72 in the 100, 23.8 in the 200 and 54.6 in the 400. Hyacinth, a freshman, is considered to be an SEC caliber performer in the hurdles, long jump and quarter mile. Her best marks are 43.01 in the 300 hurdles, 19-2 in the long jump, and 54.7 in the 400.

After a very successful cross country season, the distance runners loom as a major force in Bama's championship plans. Former Olympian Evelyn Adiru, a sophomore, was SEC individual champion in cross country, but she's only one of three Tiders who were almost unbeatable in the fall. Sophomore



Lillie Leatherwood

Jeni Neilsen was All-SEC and was Alabama's first place finisher through most of the fall. Beyond that, sophomore Liz Lynch was sitting out a year as a transfer and running unattached and she usually finished ahead of Neilsen. Lynch recently won Birmingham's 10K Vulcan championship with a personal best time of 32:56 and she has also run 9:03 in the 3,000 meters and 4:33 in the mile. Adiru finished third in last year's NCAA outdoor championships in the 800 meter run.

The rest of a solid distance squad includes seniors Lisa Pakutka and Claire Townsend and freshmen Susan Crawford and Mindy Lukens.

It's no surprise to hear Mitchell say "From the distance group there is the potential to have several All-Americans and SEC champions and possibly even a national champion."

The field events also received a boost from newcomers this year. High jumper Laura



Evelyn Adiru

Agront, a junior transfer, was a 1984 Olympian and has cleared the six-foot barrier. Heptathlete Bryndis Holm, a freshman, will specialize in the long jump and hurdles during indoor season. She has a best mark of 20-4 in the long jump.

Alabama Assistant Coach Wayne Williams notes that while Alabama is "potentially—barring injuries—much stronger," he makes defending champion LSU the favorite in the conference. "We should have a better season than usual, but LSU is favored because they are the defending champions and because they had a great recruiting year. But," he added, "we do have the ability to challenge them."

But there's more than the conference race to consider. Last year Bama was 15th in the NCAA championships. "It doesn't take many points to be a contender in the NCAA, and with our quality people we could be in the middle of the race for the national title," said Williams.

Lee An All-Time Great

by I.J. Rosenberg

On a team of famous players, Lee was as good as they came

From time-to-time the question arises as to how the football greats of yesteryear

would fare in today's game. Because he played in an era with great players and also knew more than just a little bit about modern players, former Alabama Head Football Coach Paul Bryant was occasionally asked that question.

No one knew better than Bryant that today's players are bigger, faster and stronger, as well as more specialized, and he always pointed that out. But he also always added that he had teammates "who could play in

any era," and he named them—Don Hutson, Dixie Howell and Bill Lee.

Some things about football have not changed a great deal. Hutson was a great pass catching end both for Alabama and for the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League. Howell was the passer supreme. Both are still almost household names, at least in those households that follow Crimson Tide football. Lee was a lineman, and then as now, linemen didn't get the publicity of the skill position players. But he was unquestionably a great player who earned considerable recognition for his performance on the 1932-34 Alabama teams of Coach Frank Thomas.

Unlike most linemen in the first half of the 20th century, Lee was considered a giant. He stood 6-2 and weighed 240. Of course, his father, A.F. Lee, probably didn't consider his son a giant. A.F. weighed in around 325.

"When people compare college football today and back when I played, they usually talk about how the players today are a lot bigger and faster," said Lee, who makes his home in Eutaw. "I guess I was just an exception. The extra weight did help, though, especially when I went up against linemen from the North. It's funny because when I was playing the biggest linemen were at schools like Notre Dame, Pittsburgh and Penn State, and that's still true today."

The Alabama teams Lee played on went 25-3-1, including 10-0 with a 29-13 Rose Bowl victory over Stanford his senior year. The Tide won Southeastern Conference championships in 1933 and 1934 and the national championship in 1934. That year Lee was named to every All-America team. *Birmingham News* Sports Editor Alf Van Hoose remembers hearing stories about the game that made Lee an All-America. It came in Lee's junior year and, surprisingly, was one of those three losses Bama would suffer during his career.

Bill Lee, an All-America tackle for Alabama in 1934, will join his old coach and several former teammates in the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in February. Among the notables of the 1934 team that won the national championship were (left to right) Dixie Howell, Lee, Coach Frank Thomas and Don Hutson.



"Alabama was playing Fordham in New York," Van Hoose said. "The Tide ended up losing the game, 2-0, but Lee was all over the field. On offense he took player after player down on blocks. On defense he made nearly every tackle. Because the game was in New York it was seen by all of the important press people and the next year he was on all the All-America lists. Whenever great Alabama linemen are discussed, Lee's name is always mentioned."

Along with Lee, his roommate, Hutson, and Howell also made All-America following the 1934 season. "We had a lot of talent on that team, to say the least," said Lee. "I was real close to Don and Bryant was our other roomie. Back then most everyone on the team had a real close relationship. Everyone on the team was your friend. But I especially remember the Bear. He was an outstanding football player, but he also had a good head on his shoulders. We were always good friends."

Lee said his most vivid memory at Alabama was beating Stanford in the Rose Bowl. "I remember we went out to California on a train," he said. "It was the first time for most of the guys to get out of Alabama. Stanford was supposed to be the best thing on the West Coast. They were cocky because they thought they were playing just a bunch of good ol' Southern boys. They weren't so tough. I remember it was such a good feeling walking off the Rose Bowl field after we had beaten them in front of all those people."

Another facet of football that hasn't changed over the years is the importance of coaching. "The reason we had such a good team was not only our talent, but also Coach

Thomas," Lee said. "He was from Notre Dame and he had something special about him. He was always there for the players and everyone had a lot of respect for him. He also did a great job at formations. On offense we ran the Notre Dame box to perfection because of him. He really knew football."

Lee's position coach was another Alabama legend, Hank Crisp. "I didn't know much about football, but I met the right man," said Lee. "Coach Crisp took me under his wing, treated me like a son, and made a football player out of me."

Lee was actually recruited by Wallace Wade, who resigned as Bama's coach following the 1930 season, was bird hunting in Greene County before leaving Alabama. Lee told Billy Mitchell of *The Tuscaloosa News* that he had been invited along to hold the horses for the hunters. Wade was impressed with Lee's 6-2, 215-pound frame and invited him to Tuscaloosa.

After Lee's banner career he would team up with Hutson again, going on to play professionally with the Green Bay Packers after signing originally with the Brooklyn Dodgers football team. "The best thing about going to Green Bay was that was

where I met my wife," Lee said. He and the former Rose Mary Maloney have been married for 46 years. "I liked Green Bay, though. Of course back then we played both offense and defense. We did win a world championship."

There's no question about the biggest difference in pro football then and now, he said. "The money. I made \$300 a week and that was all. Now they make millions and they don't do half the work we did. But I guess like everything else, that had to change, too."

Lee played seven years as a pro, then went into the Navy for World War II, commanding an infantry landing craft. He played two more years at Green Bay after the war, then returned to Eutaw where he served as Greene County sheriff for 17 years. Now 75, he still lives on Boligee Street, where he was born and raised.

He still follows the Tide. "I try to go to all the games I can," he said. "I had a close relationship with Coach Bryant. He was such a great man. He is responsible for the reputation Alabama has today."

"However, I also like to think that the guys who played with me back in the '30s helped Alabama along, too."

Hutson Returns For ASHoff Fete

Don Hutson, the only surviving member of the inaugural class of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1969, is returning for this year's ceremonies February 22.

Among this year's inductees is Hutson's former roommate and teammate at Alabama, Bill Lee. Other 1986 inductees with Crimson Tide ties are former football stars Ken Stabler and the late Bobby Marlow and golfer Sam Perry, who was killed in World War II.

Ceremonies will be at the Birmingham-Jefferson County Civic Center. A reception will be held at 5:30 p.m., followed by the banquet at 7 p.m. Reception tickets are \$7.50 each, banquet tickets \$20 each and may be ordered from the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 10163, Birmingham, AL 35202.

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BAMA SCORECARD

All-Stars

Cornelius Bennett heads a long list of 1985 Alabama football players who have received various all-star honors this year. Bennett, a junior outside linebacker who was a consensus All-Southeastern Conference performer and named to some All-America teams as a sophomore, repeated on every All-SEC team this year and was also named to a handful of All-America teams. The three notable All-SEC teams are those chosen by media representatives of the Associated Press and United Press International and by the league's head coaches for the SEC office. Bennett, senior defensive tackle Jon Hand and junior wide receiver Al Bell were selected on all three teams. Junior quarterback Mike Shula was selected by UPI and the coaches, junior noseguard Curt Jarvis by UPI and junior cornerback Freddie Robinson by the coaches. AP second team selections were Shula, junior placekicker Van Tiffin, Robinson, Jarvis and junior linebacker Wayne Davis.

Other Tiders receiving mention from the coaches were junior center Wes Neighbors, Tiffin, Jarvis and Davis.

Bennett was second team All-America by AP and UPI, but first team by *Sporting News*, *Football News* and The Walter Camp Football Foundation. Hand was first team by *Sporting News* and second team by *Football News*, while Neighbors was second team by *Sporting News* and Bell third team by *Football News*.

Sophomore offensive guard Bill Condon was named to the *Football News* Sophomore All-America team.

Lineman Of The Year

Jon Hand, Alabama's senior defensive tackle, was selected as Lineman of the Year by the Washington, D.C. Pigskin Club. The club's 47th annual black tie dinner was to be December 20 in Washington. William Perry, now of Chicago Bears fame, was last year's recipient of the Lineman of the Year Award.

All-Star Games

Although Alabama's 1985 team was made up primarily of underclassmen, as many as five senior Tiders will play in postseason all-star games. And Alabama Head Coach Ray Perkins will be an assistant coach in one of them.

Jon Hand had a chance to play in either the Hula Bowl or the Senior Bowl, both on January 18, and selected the Senior primarily because he will already have seen Hawaii. Hand will also join fullback Craig Turner in the East-West Shrine Game in San Francisco January 11, where Perkins will be an assistant coach for the East team.

Hand's defensive tackle teammates at Alabama will also be teammates in Mobile, Larry



Jon Hand

Roberts and Brent Sowell having been selected for the Senior Bowl. On offense Alabama will be represented by tight end Thornton Chandler and possibly by Turner.

Records

Fifteen Alabama records were broken, tied or extended by placekicker Van Tiffin and quarterback Mike Shula during the 1985 Alabama Crimson Tide football season. The team broke one NCAA record.

Tiffin, a junior, broke seven records and tied or extended three other marks. His records included the longest field goal (57 yards vs. Texas A&M), most points scored in a career (234), most points scored by kicking in a career (not surprisingly, the same 234), most points scored by a kicker in one season (84), most field goals in one season (17), most field goals in a career (46) and longest average distance of field goals (41 yards).

Tiffin extended his existing record of consecutive extra point kicks to 96 and tied the previous record of 14 points by kicking in a game.

He has a big foot in an Alabama team record, consecutive extra point kicks. Bama broke the NCAA record of 135 consecutive extra point kicks against Vanderbilt and ended with the record ongoing at 155. Peter Kim (54), Paul Trodd (4) and Terry Sanders (1) preceded Tiffin in the record effort.

Shula, also a junior, set records for most touchdown passes in a game (four vs. Memphis State) and season (16). He also set a record for highest percentage of passes completed with 200 or more attempts (60.3). He is one of several Alabama players sharing in a record of responsibility for four touchdowns in a game.

Freshman punter Chris Mohr tied an Alabama record for highest average on five or more punts with his 52.4 average against Auburn—a game in which he played with a broken fibula in his left leg.

Contract Extension

Ray Perkins, who has just completed the third year under his original five-year contract as Alabama's head football coach, has been given a three-year extension on that pact. University President Dr. Joab Thomas extended Perkins' contract through the 1990 season, citing "the confidence The University has in Coach Perkins, his staff and the entire football program."

Tough Schedule

The achievements of Alabama's 1985 football team came despite a difficult schedule. *NCAA News* put the results of all Division IA teams through its computer and found Bama's to be the nation's second toughest. The NCAA determines its schedule toughness rating by eliminating games of opponents played against the team, then figuring the won-lost percentage of all opponents against Division IA competition. Notre Dame had the toughest schedule under the NCAA formula. Florida's schedule ranked third, Rice's fourth and Auburn's fifth. The NCAA had figured a preseason rating based on last year's results (obviously a flawed formula, but defended as being the same basis of most preseason poll predictions) and Alabama was projected as having the nation's 49th most difficult schedule.

USA Today named Alabama's schedule as the third most difficult.

Tide opponents combined for a 72-41-8 record and 62.8 percent winning percentage. Take out the games against Alabama and the record was 70-33-7, a 66.8 winning percentage. During the course of the year Bama met seven teams that finished with winning records (coming out with a 4-2-1 mark against them) and six bowl teams (winning over both Cotton Bowl opponents, Texas A&M and Auburn, as well as Sun Bowl-bound Georgia, tying Liberty Bowl-bound LSU and losing to Southeastern Conference champion and Sugar Bowl representative Tennessee and number one ranked/Orange Bowl-bound Penn State).

By comparison, LSU finished with an outstanding 9-1-1 record but played only two winning teams (losing at home to Florida and tying at home to Alabama) and played only one bowl team (Aloha-bound you-know-who).

It has been pointed out that Alabama was only seven points away from an undefeated season, dropping two two-point decisions and having the tie. Of course, Bama was only nine points away from a 6-5 season, winning by four over Georgia and two over Auburn in games that were pulled out in miracle fashion.

New Coaches

No fewer than four of Alabama's 1986 football opponents will be under new head coaches next year. Watson Brown has gone to Vanderbilt and Lou Holtz to Notre Dame. Memphis State and Mississippi State are still searching for replacements.

On the other hand, at least three 1986 opponents extended the contracts of their coaches—Florida giving Galen Hall and LSU giving Bill Arnsparger through the 1990 season, Tennessee extending Johnny Majors through 1991.

Underdog At Vandy

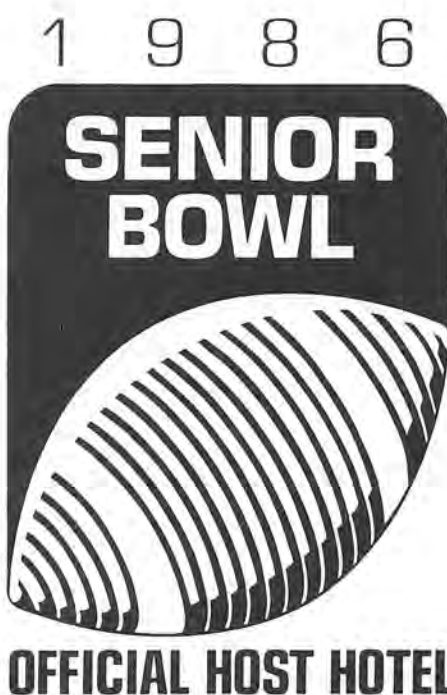
The Vanderbilt faithful are jubilant over the return of alumnus Watson Brown as head football coach of the Commodores. *GO GOLD* magazine, which covers Vanderbilt sports, tells of an interesting aspect of Brown's career. Brown's father was a follower of Tennessee and hoped his son would end up wearing orange and white, but after a recruiting visit to Knoxville, young Watson decided he wasn't interested in being a Vol.

The battle for Brown continued, according to *GO GOLD*:

"The most serious recruiting pitch was yet to come. And the pitcher had methods of melting even the most hardened resolve.

"Watson was always a big fan of Bear

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Bryant,' remembers Katherine Brown. 'And I thought he might go to Alabama when they put on the big rush his senior year.

" 'Coach Bryant sent a private plane to Cookeville to pick Watson up on signing day of his senior year. Then they spent the entire day together and Coach Bryant took him to practice and introduced him to Kenny Stabler. Stabler asked Watson when he was going to sign and Watson told him he was undecided. Stabler told him that Coach Bryant must want him to be his next Alabama quarterback because he almost never brought recruits on the field during practice.'

"But when Watson got back to Cookeville he chose Vanderbilt and told his mother it was because, 'I've always been an underdog and it excites me to go some place where I can be part of building something new.'

"Still unaffected by Crimson, two years later Brown would lead Vanderbilt to a 14-10 win over Bryant's Alabama team, which was undefeated and nationally ranked. Many consider it among the top wins in Commodore history."

To Starkville

As expected (November 'BAMA), Mississippi State has scheduled its 1986 game against Alabama in Starkville. The November 1 contest will mark Bama's first trip to State's campus for a football game since 1962. Mississippi State is in the process of expanding its stadium to 41,000 and is bringing in the Tide in order to boost season ticket sales. Alabama has ordinarily gotten in the neighborhood of 15,000 tickets for games against Mississippi State in Jackson, but the Tide expects no more than about 6,000—the allotment Bama gives Mississippi State in Alabama—for the game in Starkville.

Sweet 16

Cecil Hurt of *The Tuscaloosa News* is one of the more thorough sports reporters in examining the recruiting scene. He has issued a post season Sweet 16 (and 16 more) listing of the top senior football prospects in Alabama. Heading his list is running back Pierre Goode of Hazlewood, the brother of Tiders Kerry and Chris.

The rest of Hurt's top 16 were offensive tackle Brad Johnson of Cherokee County, running back James Joseph of Phenix City Central, nose guard Willie Wyatt of Gardendale, defensive back Sean Smith of Opelika, fullback Robert Stewart of Houston County, lineman Byron Holbrooks of Haleyville, center Chris Robinette of Enterprise, defensive end Leon Lett of Fairhope, quarterback Pat Madden of Albertville, wide receiver Lawrence Dawsey of Dothan Northview, center Bien Harbin of LeFlore, running back Michael Pierce of Mobile Murphy, lineman

Greg Kiker of Phenix City Central, wide receiver LaMonde Russell of Oneonta and lineman Pat Thomas of Anniston Walter Wellborn.

His second 16—listed alphabetically—had tight end Charlie Abrams of Demopolis, tackle Desmond Bates of Colbert County, lineman Anthony Brown of Montgomery Lee, running back Steve Carson of Keith, lineman Terrill Chatman of Childersburg, lineman Tracy Christa of Huntsville Johnson, lineman Kevin Collins of Northview, quarterback Dale Curry of Huntsville Johnson, kicking specialist Chris Dickinson of Vestavia Hills, wide receiver Brian Edwards of Mobile Baker, quarterback Gary Hollingsworth of Hamilton, defensive back Keith Holmes of Birmingham Huffman, linebacker Chris Horn of Huntsville Johnson, lineman Kevin Penny of Hazel Green, linebacker Prentice Wilkerson of Fairfield and running back Jarrod Young of Courtland.

Eight Other Good Ones

The Knoxville News-Sentinel selected an All-National Football League of former players from the Southeastern Conference and Alabama led the way with eight choices. Former Tiders selected for the team were center Dwight Stephenson and running back Tony Nathan of Miami, tight end Ozzie Newsome of Cleveland, offensive guard John Hannah of New England, defensive tackle Mike Pitts of Atlanta, and linebackers Woodrow Lowe of San Diego, E.J. Junior of St. Louis and Randy Scott of Green Bay.

On To 1,000

It is somewhat surprising that Alabama—always something of a stepchild in Crimson Tide athletics history—becomes only the 36th team in NCAA history to win 1,000 basketball games this year, only the third Southeastern Conference team.

Alabama began playing basketball in 1913, losing four straight games before beating Mississippi College by the incredible score of 51-11. Going into this season the Tide had a record of 994-618, a winning percentage of 61.7. Kentucky entered the season with 1,376 wins, most of any college team, while Tennessee began the year with 1,033.

Perhaps even more surprising than Alabama's entry into the somewhat select 1,000-win club is Bama Head Coach Wimp Sanderson's record of having been involved in 43 percent of all Alabama games in history. And if he continues to coach through the 1991 season with Alabama continuing to average 31 games per year, he will have been a part of more than 50 percent of all Bama game. Sanderson joined the Bama staff as an assistant coach in 1960 and be-

came head coach prior to the 1980-81 season.

Hurlers In

Last year Alabama Head Baseball Coach Barry Shollenberger signed three junior college pitchers, but the signings were conditional. All had to complete their junior college graduation requirements in order to be eligible this spring. In mid-December Shollenberger got the good news that all would be entering Alabama in January.

The three are righthanders Mike Sanders of Chipola (Marianna, Florida) Junior College and Chris Taylor of Hillsborough (Tampa, Florida) Junior College and lefthander Todd Polestra of Palamar (California) Junior College.

To Hawaii

Don Berger, a senior freestyler for the Alabama swimming team, was selected to train with the United States National Team this year. Any free trip to Hawaii is a good one, but Berger's is particularly timely in that he will be in Honolulu December 26 through January 2, giving him an opportunity to take in Bama's Aloha Bowl football game against Southern Cal.

The York, Pennsylvania, native is currently ranked fourth in the nation at 200 meters. He was one of 36 men picked to train for the national team, which will compete in next summer's (August 18-24) World Championships in Madrid, Spain.

Bama Assistant Coach Brian Gordon was also offered a spot on the team as an assistant coach, but declined. When he found out Bama's football team would be bowling there he tried to get back on the staff, but it was too late.

World Rankings

Tiders Don Berger and Peter Berndt are both listed in the latest world swimming rankings. Berger is 11th in the 200-meter freestyle, while Berndt is eighth in 200-meter individual medley, 11th in 400 individual medley and 18th in 200 backstroke.

Swim Performances

Although Alabama's swimming and diving team did not compete in the week prior to or the week of final examinations, two Bama swimmers went to invitational meets during that time and performed well. Franck Iacono went to the Canadian Cup in Montreal and won the 1500 freestyle and finished second in the 400 freestyle. Mike Davidson went to the USS Open at Austin, Texas and qualified for the NCAA championships and for next summer's Commonwealth Games in the 1500.



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ALABAMA'S WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

Men's Basketball

91	Athletes In Action 76
82	Northwest Louisiana 77
89	Utah 69
91	Rider 63
99	Murray State 65
92	Mercer 49
Dec. 16	Florida State (Birmingham)
Dec. 21	@ Maryland

SUN BOWL TOURNAMENT

Dec. 29-	Nebraska
Dec. 30	Ohio State or Texas El-Paso
Jan. 2	@ Mississippi State
Jan. 4	@ Georgia
Jan. 9	Louisiana State (TV)
Jan. 11	@ Kentucky
Jan. 16	Auburn (TV)
Jan. 18	Tennessee
Jan. 22	@ Vanderbilt
Jan. 25	Florida
Jan. 29	@ Mississippi
Feb. 1	Mississippi State
Feb. 5	Georgia
Feb. 9	@ Louisiana State
Feb. 13	Kentucky (TV)
Feb. 15	@ Auburn (TV)
Feb. 19	@ Tennessee
Feb. 22	Vanderbilt (TV)
Feb. 26	@ Florida
March 2	Mississippi
March 5-8	SEC Tournament (Lexington)

Women's Basketball

89	@ Tennessee State 81
79	Jackson State 50

NORTHWESTERN CLASSIC

78	Boston College 69
58	Northwestern 66
66	@ Marquette 40
70	@ Troy State 47
Dec. 18	@ Jackson State
Dec. 19	@ Arkansas State
Dec. 30	Southwest Missouri State
Jan. 2	@ Mississippi State
Jan. 4	Stephen F. Austin
Jan. 6	@ Alabama-Birmingham
Jan. 9	@ Alabama-Huntsville
Jan. 10	@ North Alabama
Jan. 15	Auburn
Jan. 18	@ Tennessee
Jan. 23	@ Vanderbilt
Jan. 24	@ David Lipscomb
Jan. 26	Florida
Jan. 29	@ Mississippi
Feb. 1	Clemson
Feb. 3	Alcorn State
Feb. 5	Georgia
Feb. 8	LSU
Feb. 12	Kentucky
Feb. 17	Alabama-Birmingham
Feb. 22	Louisiana Tech
Feb. 28-March 3	SEC Tournament

Gymnastics

Jan. 11	Missouri
Jan. 17	@ Georgia
Jan. 24	Penn State, Michigan State, New Hampshire @ Penn State
Jan. 31	Jacksonville State
Feb. 7	RED AND WHITE CLASSIC Illinois State, Maryland, Georgia
Feb. 14	Florida
Feb. 22	SEC (Gainesville)
Feb. 28	@ Louisiana State
March 7	Arizona State, Florida, Nebraska, Penn State @ Arizona State
March 15	@ Florida
March 22	North Carolina, Louisiana State
March 27	Auburn
April 5	NCAA Regions (Baton Rouge)
April 18-19	NCAA (Gainesville)

Women's Swimming

Nov. 8-9	@ Florida Invitational
58	Miami 64
77	@ Virginia 63
86	Indiana 51
Dec. 6-8	USS Open @ Austin
Jan. 4	Cincinnati
Jan. 17	@ Auburn
Jan. 24	LSU
Jan. 25	Southern Miss
Jan. 26	Northeast Louisiana
Feb. 1	Tulane @ Pensacola
Feb. 8	Arkansas
Feb. 15	@ Florida
Feb. 27-March 1	SEC @ Knoxville
March 13-15	Region III Diving @ Clemson
March 20-22	NCAA @ Fayetteville

Men's Swimming

Nov. 8-9	@ Florida Invitational
58	Miami 39
74	@ Virginia 39
Dec. 6-8	USS Open @ Austin
68	@ Kentucky 45
Jan. 4	Cincinnati
Jan. 18	@ Auburn
Jan. 24	LSU
Jan. 25	Southern Miss
Jan. 26	Northeast Louisiana
Feb. 1	Tulane @ Pensacola
Feb. 8	Arkansas
Feb. 15	@ Florida
March 8-9	SEC Diving @ Baton Rouge
March 13-15	SEC Swimming @ Baton Rouge
March 13-15	Region III Diving @ Clemson
April 4-6	NCAA @ Indianapolis

Men's Track

Jan. 17-18	Kodak Invitational @ Johnson City, Tenn.
Jan. 25	@ LSU Invitational
Feb. 1	@ Indiana Invitational
Feb. 8	@ Florida Invitational
Feb. 15	@ LSU
March 1-2	SEC @ Baton Rouge
March 14-15	NCAA @ Oklahoma City

Women's Track

Jan. 17-18	Kodak Invitational @ Johnson City, Tenn.
Jan. 25	@ LSU Invitational
Feb. 1	@ Indiana Invitational
Feb. 8	@ Florida Invitational
Feb. 15	@ LSU
March 1-2	SEC @ Baton Rouge
March 14-15	NCAA @ Oklahoma City

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